



**St. Stephen Catholic Church**  
**7111 Lee Hwy. Chattanooga, TN 37421**  
**423-892-1261 Office**  
**www.ststephenchatt.org**  
**December 14, 2025**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent**

**REV. MANUEL PÉREZ, PASTOR**

REV. ALEXANDER "A.J." HOUSTON, IN RESIDENCE

DEACON GARY BRINKWORTH

DEACON DAVE WAGUESPACK

Thank you for attending Mass with us today, we are glad you came! Fr. Pérez & Fr. Houston and the parish family of St. Stephen would like to welcome all of our visitors and new members.

Parish Goal

To establish an assembly of believers who remain in the Word.

Mission Statement

To Live and Proclaim the Good News of Jesus every day.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR INFORMATION REGARDING:

- \* ANOINTING OF THE SICK
- \* HOMEBOUND VISITS
- \* MASS INTENTIONS
- \* ALTAR FLOWERS
- \* TRAVELING CHALICE
- \* BAPTISMS / PREPARATION
- \* MARRIAGES
- \* FUNERAL/MEMORIAL MASSES

Adore the Lord in Holy Attire

*What we wear says a great deal about what we value. As Catholics, going to Mass is the most important thing that we will do each week. The manner in which we dress is part of the reverence that is shown to the Lord present in the Eucharist as well as respect shown for God's holy people.*

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

8:30 A.M.

Wednesday

6:00 P.M.

1st Friday

8:30 A.M.

Other Fridays

Communion Service

8:30 A.M.

Saturday

5:00 P.M.

Sunday

8:30, 11:00 A.M.

1:00 P.M. ESPAÑOL

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY 4:00 - 4:50 P.M.

OR BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH OFFICE

MONDAY - THURSDAY

8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

FRIDAY

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

**Today's Schedule**

**First Reading**

**Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**146: 66-7, 8-9, 9-10**

**"Lord, come and save us."**

**Second Reading**

**James 5: 7-10**

**Gospel Reading**

**Matthew 11: 2-11**

**THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH****MASS SCHEDULE**Saturday, December 13

8:30A.M. - MEN'S BIBLE STUDY PT

4:00 P.M. - CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. - MASS

Sunday, December 14

8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. &amp; ESPAÑOL 1:00 P.M. MASSES

9:40 A.M. - OCIA LIB

9:30 A.M. - BIBLE STUDY 4/5/6

2:00 P.M. - AD ED MR

Monday, December 15

1:00 P.M. - GAME DAY IN THE MR

3 P.M. - DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

**6:00 P.M. - PENANCE SERVICE**

6:30 P.M. - AD ED IN MR

Tuesday, December 16

8:30 A.M. - DAILY MASS

9:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 1 &amp; 6:30 P.M. AD ED IN PT

7:00 P.M. - CHOIR

Wednesday, December 17

5:30 P.M. - CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRACTICE PT

Thursday, December 18

8:30 A.M. - DAILY MASS

6:00 P.M. - ADORATION

6:00 P.M. - OCIA

6:00 P.M. - LADIES WELCOME MR

6:30 P.M. - AD ED LIBRARY

6:30 P.M. - MEN'S WELCOME PT

Friday, December 19

8:30 A.M. - COMMUNION SERVICE

Saturday, December 20

8:30A.M. - MEN'S BIBLE STUDY PT

4:00 P.M. - CONFESSIONS

5:00 P.M. - MASS

**6:00 P.M. - LADIES AUXILAIRY COOKIE WALK IN ADMIN. BUILDING**Sunday, December 21

8:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M. &amp; ESPAÑOL 1:00 P.M.

MASSES

**LADIES AUXILIARY COOKIE WALK AFTER ALL MASSES IN ADMIN. BUILDING**

9:30 A.M. - OCIA LIB

10:00 A.M. - BIBLE STUDY

2:00 P.M. - AD. ED PT

Saturday, December 13 - 5:00 P.M.

+Ted McDermott By Mary McDermott

+Louise McAvoy By Don McAvoy

+Marguerite &amp; +Ervin Romans By Cliff &amp; Patti Crownover

+Charles Lee Jonesco By Bruce &amp; Sharyn Moreland

Sunday, December 14 - 8:30 A.M.

Ronnie Barnes By Russ &amp; Sherry Ferguson

Sunday, December 14 - 11:00 A.M.

+Ed Merrit by Bonney &amp; Boydston Family

+Walter Vampirine By The Ladies Auxiliary

+Charlie Kirk By Rob &amp; Phyllis Chaousy

Sunday, December 14 - 1:00 P.M.

St. Stephen Church Members

Monday, December 15 - 8:30 A.M.

For the Poor Souls in Purgatory By Fr. Manuel Pérez

+Mary Margaret Lacy By Vincelette &amp; Mia Brown

+Freda Olszeska By Clarence &amp; Pat Bodnar

Tuesday, December 16 - 8:30 A.M.

Joe &amp; Susie Alexander By Akash Alexander

Wednesday, December 17 - 6:00 P.M.

+James &amp; +Corinne Swanson By The Von Peters Family

Thursday, December 18 - 8:30 A.M.

+Theodore &amp; +Mary Ann Statuto By Loving Family

+Gail Nevins By Laurence &amp; Sandy Schnur

Friday, December 19 - 8:30 A.M.

Communion Service

Saturday, December 20 - 5:00 P.M.

++Frank Overmeer By Laura Overmeer

+Frank &amp; +Marie Ruggiero By Mary Pomerance

+Louise McAvoy By Don McAvoy

Sunday, December 21 - 8:30 A.M.

+Rusty Phillips By Liz Phillips &amp; Family

+Beverly Hunter By Mike Hunter &amp; Family

+Appachan &amp; +Maria Joseph By Jessil Joseph

Sunday, December 21 - 11:00 A.M.

respect Life from Conception to Natural Death

+Charles Lee Jonesca By Bruce &amp; Sharyn Moreland

+Ed Merritt By Rob &amp; Phyllis Chaousy

Sunday, December 21 - 1:00 P.M.

St. Stephen Church Members

# MINISTRIES & CONTACTS

**ADORATION** - First Friday of the month at 9 - 10 a.m., 2nd Thursday at 9 - 10 a.m., 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 - 7 p.m., 4th & if there is a 5th Thursday 9 - 10 a.m.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Call Joan Roueché at 423-635-0857.

**ADULT EDUCATION** - Please call the church office for more information about our Adult Education.

**AHG** - American Heritage Girls here at St. Stephen, For more information, please contact Kristen Connell 615-483-3944 in the Meeting Room.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call Fr. Manuel Pérez at 423-892-1261 x2. Please have a family member call the office and request a visit from a Priest.

**BAPTISM** - Parents & Godparents who wish to have their child baptized are asked to register for the class by contacting the parish office at 423-892-1261 x4. Next class will TBD.

**BOOK CLUB** - Last Monday of the month 6:30 p.m. in the Primetimer's Room. Contact Debby Sopko at 423-463-1060. **Primetimer's Event**

**BUNCO** - 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m.. Contact Aimee Gloster 615-400-3743. **Primetimer's Event**

**CARING HEARTS & HANDS** - To comfort families of our parish in their time of need by providing a luncheon for their guests after a funeral or memorial Mass. Contact Elaine Williams at 423-645-5835.

**CASUAL COCKTAILS** - Contact Daniel & Jeannie Hixon at 423-280-9516 or Art & Dena Vonwerssowitz at 423-667-5550. **Primetimer's Event**

**CHATTANOOGA FOUNDATION** - 2nd Sunday of each month St. Stephen's helps the Community Kitchen serve lunch to their guests. We arrive at 11 a.m. & slice & butter the homemade bread baked by parishioners for this occasion. We also assist in other duties and serve lunch at 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Call Lori Fox at 423-314-2887.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** - Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Contact Betty Anne Neal at 423-488-6107.

**CHRISTIAN FORMATION** - For K through 12th grade. Classes meet during the school year. Families must be registered parishioners of St. Stephen Catholic Church. Contact Donna Snuggs at 423-892-2957.

**CHURCH CLEANING MINISTRY** - Contact Sue Buske 423-320-9167

**DINING OUT EXPERIENCE**- Contact Cliff & Patti Crownover at 423-344-3575. **Primetimer's Event**

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** - Meets every Monday at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel to pray The Divine Mercy Chaplet. Contact: Debby Sopko 423-463-1060

**GAME DAY** - Contact Mary Hess at 423-255-4995. Meets Mondays at 1 - 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. **Primetimer's Event**

**HEALING HEARTS** - Meets on the 3rd Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the Primetimer's Room. Please call Priscilla McLean at 423-503-3665 or Liz Huntenburg 954-464-7372. **Primetimer's Event**

**HEALTH MINISTRY** - We will be taking Monthly Blood Pressure Checks the last weekend of the month after all masses. For more information contact Allison Runyon at 678-371-0677.

**LUNCH BUNCH** - Meets at 11 a.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at a different restaurant. Contact Priscilla McLean at 423-503-3665. RSVP **Primetimer's Event**

**MATRIMONY** - Four months notice required. You must be registered parishioners. Contact the Church Office.

**O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)** Explore for yourself what Catholicism is about! O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Join us in between the two Sunday Masses starting around 9:40 A.M. in the Library in the Administrative Building. For more information contact Tom Cain 423-718-0619 or Deacon Dave Waguespack.

**O.C.I.A. For Families. NEW** - Join us in the every Thursday in Counters Room at 6 p.m. Contact Zach Germann at 678-571-6521.

**RESPECT LIFE** - For more information contact Theresa Cole 423-432-7007 or Pat Bodnar 423-855-4717.

**ROSARY** - Prayed daily after 8:30 a.m. Mass by The Rosary Group following Mass in the Church.

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS & IMMACULATE MARY PRAYER GROUP:** Meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**SEWING GROUP** - The Sewing Group meets on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. to make items needed by Ladies of Charity, Hospice, and the homeless. Call Mary Hess at 423-255-4995. **Primetimer's Event** Not meeting during our renovation of the halls.

**SPANISH WEDDING & BAPTISM PREPARATION** - Meets on Sunday's in the Primetimer's Room when needed. Call Manuel & Elizabeth Colmenares at 305-342-4741 for more information. Next **Baptism Class is on January 4, 2026** at 11 a.m. in the Administration building. \*Solo para feligreses de San Esteban.

**SPORTING EVENTS - Primetimer's Event** - Contact Larry Skelly at 703-624-0498.

**SUNSHINE BASKET MINISTRY** - Contact Myrtle Englert at 812-449-6104.

## CHURCH INFORMATION

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Sharon Vannucci, Chair Person

Priscilla McLean, Secretary  
Communication

Donna Snuggs, Education

### PARISH FINANCE BOARD

Trina Hicks, Chair Person

John DiPrima    Lorrie Levitt-Haufe

Robert Sullivan    Tom Smith

John Vannucci, Parish Life

Myrtle Englert, Family Life

Ron Schleifer

Al Henry

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Sharon Vannucci

### LECTORS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS & ALTAR SERVERS

Deacon Dave Waguespack

### Parish Staff

Rev. Manuel Pérez, Pastor    [pastor@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:pastor@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-1261 X2

Rev. Alexander "A.J." Houston, In residence

Gary Brinkworth, Deacon    [deacon@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:deacon@ststephenchatt.org)

423-855-7993

David Waguespack, Deacon    [deacondavewaqs@gmail.com](mailto:deacondavewaqs@gmail.com)

Betty Anne Neal, Director of Music    [betty.anne.neal@gmail.com](mailto:betty.anne.neal@gmail.com)

Sherry Ferguson, Church Secretary    [secretary@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:secretary@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-1261 X4

Sharon Vannucci, Bookkeeper    [bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ststephenchatt.org)

423-486-9909

Donna Snuggs,

Christian Formation Coordinator    [cre@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:cre@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-2957

Crystal Marchand, Youth Coordinator    [stsyouth@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:stsyouth@ststephenchatt.org)

423-892-2957

Robert M. Sullivan, Contract Administrator

[sullivanrobertm@gmail.com](mailto:sullivanrobertm@gmail.com)

Russ Ferguson, Maintenance

[facmgr@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:facmgr@ststephenchatt.org)

423-486-9914



Diocese of  
**KNOXVILLE**

The Diocese of Knoxville is seeking a Gifts Administrator in the Chancery Stewardship Office. The Gifts Administrator will oversee all aspects of Diocesan stewardship donor relations while utilizing the donor database Raiser's Edge. This is an in-person (not remote). Please see the Diocesan website for more information and where to send your cover letter and resume: <https://dioknox.org/employment>.

## OFFERTORY

11/30/2025

Offertory Collection - Envelopes	\$ 6,086.70
Offertory Collection YTD - Envelopes	\$ 225,338.42
Offertory - Parish Soft	\$
Offertory - Parish Soft YTD	\$131,260.00
Offertory - Loose	\$2,122.00
Offertory - Loose YTD	\$ 42,918.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,208.70</b>
<b>Total YTD</b>	<b>\$389,921.52</b>
<b>Renovation &amp; Repair</b>	<b>\$8,527.50</b>
<b>Renovation &amp; Repair YTD</b>	<b>\$ 88,684.08</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,736.20</b>
<b>Grand Total YTD</b>	<b>\$478,605.60</b>

11/2302025

Mass Attendance: 1,252

Number of Families: 1,325

*Would you like to invest or donate to St. Stephen Catholic Church? Please contact Fr. Manuel Pérez.*

## ANNIVERSARY



*Congratulations to the following on their Wedding Anniversary*

*Steve & Karen Underwood - 44th  
Walter & Bonnie Skiba - 48th  
Bill & Patricia Wood - 58th*

If you would like your Wedding Anniversary in the bulletin, please call the Church Office Three (3) weeks before your special day. 423-892-1261x4

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

### 2025-2026 Christian Formation



Classes are from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Wednesdays.

December 17 - Christian Formation & Youth Ministry

December 24th & 31st - Christmas Break - NO CLASS

For more information, please contact: Donna Snuggs at 423-892-2957 or [cre@ststephenchatt.org](mailto:cre@ststephenchatt.org).

### OCIA ADULTS & NOW FAMILIES



Are you wondering what Catholicism is and want to explore joining? Find out for yourself! O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) Join us after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday in the Library/Administrative Building. Please tell anyone you know who would like to explore the Catholic Church. For more information contact Tom Cain 423.718.0619 or Sherry at the Parish Office 423-892-1261 ext. 4 or chat with one of the Deacons after Mass.



O.C.I.A. for Families  
Meets on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. CR  
call Zach Germann 678-431-6147.

### ALTAR SERVERS, EMHC, USHERS & GREETERS



If you are interested in becoming an Usher or Greeter, **WE NEED YOU!** Please contact Mike Durr at [Mjdurr65@gmail.com](mailto:Mjdurr65@gmail.com). We are a very limited number of individuals available for Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 11 a.m. Masses. We also need Altar Servers & EMHC for the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass.



## ANGEL TREE

**Due, Sunday, Dec. 14th** to return the unwrapped gift in a Christmas bag, with the angel attached. This year we have items that are suggested with sizes provided on the angels. We are not asking for ANY gift cards this year, so please try to provide items that are suggested on the Angel. If you

have any questions, please call me at the number below.

If you don't like to shop and you may place a check in the collections and we will take care of your Angel Tree person. Remember to write Angel tree on the notation.

Thank you for supporting all our angels in our parish by keeping their spirits up during this Holy Season!

Sincerely,

Sandy Mullin

423-605-3373

## PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Greg Amico, Ronnie Barnes, Dale Carney, April Chapman, Theresa Cole, Chad Clark, Peggy Conway, Jeanette Craig, Mia Crownover, Rita Dalton, Mary Ann Decker, Mark Andrew Germaine, Sandra Goettl, Pat Halenar, Rick & Elle Hamdy, Jesse Hurst & Family, Lorrie Levitt-Haufe, John Holland, Jr., Margaret Horten, Rick Hunter, Juliet Lowell, Missy & Robin Locklear, Aaron Love, Dennis Lowe, Angie McManus, Don Meagher, Donald & Beverly Milewski, Sam Nechvatal, Marjorie Nelowet, Mary Ann Norman, Carmelita Ordonez, Mitch Parker, Glenn Perry, Sr., Wendy Quick, Ethan Reed, Richard Runyon, Ron Schleifer, Sandy Schnur, Marybeth Shirley, Peggy Ann Sorrells, Sarah Ryan Sawyers, Bob & Pat Smelas, Katie Smith, Gary Swager, Cindy VanDuyne, Dee Vaughan, Pat von Clef, Jill Walsh, Ann & Thomas Wheeler, Audrey Wiemer, Lynn Williams, & Maggie Williams.

### Praying for the Sick List

**If you would like St. Stephen Catholic Church to pray for you or your family member, please call the office at 423-892-1261 X4 & we will gladly put them on our prayer list. We will keep them on the list for 4 weeks and you will need to call us to put them back on.**

***Due to the Privacy (HIPAA) Laws hospitals will not notify us if you or your loved one is admitted. A family member must notify us if you wish for one of the Priests to visit the hospital.***

## KNIGHT'S & LADIES AUXILIARY



### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE, IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Sun. Dec. 14, Knights Choir@ St. Stephen 8:30 Mass, practice 8 am

Wed., Dec. 17. 6099 Directors & Officers Meeting @ Knights Hall, 6 p.m.

Thur., Dec. 18 , Knights Adoration @ St. Stephen 6-7 p.m. Parish Invited.

Congratulations to Brothers Jim Meaney (Knight of the Month) and David Miles (and wife April) Family of the Month. Why become a Knight? Knights come from every stage in life, in countless corners of the world, they are men tha lead, serve, protect, and defend. Join the Knights of Columbus today! Call 423-899-9989 or go to the website [kofc.org/joinus](http://kofc.org/joinus).



### Fourth Degree Assembly #3250

The Fourth Principles in the Knights of Columbus is Patriotism, with all Assemblies having a focus on Patriotism and serve to God & Country. Our annual fundraiser is currently running: Contact Ron Schleifer or any 4th Degree officer for additional information. This is our single & only fundraiser for this year, so please support our causes.



### Ladies Auxiliary

Our Annual Cookie Walk Sale is on Dec. 20th & 21st in the Admin Building Lobby. We bake everything from scratch. Call Laurene Hirko to get info about the Ladies Auxiliary @ 508-446-4529.

**Ladies Auxiliary Annual Christmas Cookie Bake Sale Walk is waiting for you.**

**Where: St. Stephen Administration Building**

**When: December 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> after all the masses.**

**Why: To help support St. Stephen Catholic Church, The Maclellan Shelter, Ladies of Charity and other organizations in Chattanooga all year long.**

**Thank you for all your support!**



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## **BULLETIN INFORMATION**

### **Church Bulletin Advertising**

Kevin McCollum, representing our Bulletin Publisher, Diocesan, is currently seeking new advertisements. Support our parish while you promote your business in print and digitally through social media. If interested, please contact Kevin directly or call the parish office. Only a third down payment is required to reserve an ad.

#### **Contact**

**Kevin McCollum**  
kmcollum@diocesan.com  
**614-980-9196**



**DIOCESAN**  
Catholic Life Every Day

*Thanks to you and Diocesan, the bulletin is published weekly at no cost to the parish!*

***Sponsor of the Week:***  
***Therapy Consultants***

### **CMG Connect Safe Haven is an online program that Requires ALL employees and ALL volunteers**

to watch videos and answer accountability questions at the end of each segment, submit to a background check through CMG Connect initially and then re-certify in 5 years. The training can be done on a person's own schedule and no in-person training is required which is a time-saving effort by not having to wait for a *VIRTUS* class in your area. The CMG Connect Safe Haven videos are available in English and Spanish. Background checks are done through the CMG Connect portal with a company named Selection. Users will complete their own personal information which eliminates any paper forms and ensures the security of individual's personal information. The background check is processed after meeting all of the requirements with the curriculum and the "meets criteria or does not meet criteria" results will be ready to review from the administrator dashboard. This process ensures user's data cannot be compromised since the background check cannot be edited. Background checks will be required every 5 years. Please go to our website and scroll down on the right side, you will see CMG Connect. Click on CMG Connect and you will be able to complete your information there. You will need to complete the safe environment section and then complete the background and then submit it. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.